

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00490 091302Z

41

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 OMB-01 AF-06 /094 W

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R 061100Z MAY 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1955

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 490

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, XF, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQI MILITARY CASUALTIES IN OCTOBER AND KURDISH WARS

1. FOR FIRST TIME GOI HAS REVEALED OFFICIAL CASUALTY FIGURES FOR OCTOBER 1973 WAR AND 1974;75 KURDISH WAR. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM ADDRESS BY ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF SHANSHAL ON MAY 4, 1975 TO MEMBERS OF IRAQI ARMED FORCES ON OCCASION OF ENDING OF KURDISH REBELLION:

2. "IRAQI ARMED FORCES LOST (IN KUDISH WAR) 1,640 DEAD INCLUDING 66 OFFICERS AND 7,903 WOUNDED INCLUDING 338 OFFICERS IN COMBAT OPERATIONS BETWEEN MARCH 28, 1974 AND MARCH 13, 1975. HEQVY MATERIAL LOSSES AND LIMITLESS
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00490 091302Z

EFFORTS HAD TO BE SUSTAINED IN THE COURSE OF CRUSHING

THE REBELLION. THE OPERATIONS TO CRUSH THE REBELLION WERE COMPLETED WITHIN A TIME LIMIT WHICH WAS BELOW OUR ESTIMATES. ADMINISTRATIVE AND MILITARY MEASURES HAVE IMMEDIATELY BEEN SET IN MOTION IN THE AREA TO FORESTALL ANY POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE RECURRENCE OF INSTABILITY. FINAL THRUST WAS STARTED ON MARCH 6 IN DIRECTION OF RAWANDOUZ-GALALA AXIS AND ARMED FORCES TOOK OVER VITAL NATURAL BARRIERS AND POSITIONS WHICH SUBSTANTIALLY UNDERMINED THE REBELLION'S BALANCE AND CONTRIBUTED TO ITS FINAL LIQUIDATION.

3. "IN THE 12 DAYS OF FIGHTING IN GOLAN HEIGHTS AND FOR DEFENDING DAMASCUS, THE IRAQI ARMED FORCES LOST 135 MARTYRS INCLUDING 11 OFFICERS, 271 WOUNDED INCLUDING 36 OFFICERS AND 73 MISSING INCLUDING 17 OFFICERS. IRAQI ARMED FORCES ALSO LOST 26 FIGHTER-BOMBERS IN SORTIES AGAINST THE ENEMY, 111 TANKS AND ARMoured CARRIERS, 249 COMMUNICATIONS PIECES AND 738 PIECES OF WEAPONS. WHEN THE CEASEFIRE WAS DECLARED IRAQ HAD ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS FIVE SQUADRONS OF FIGHTER-BOMBERS, MORE THAN ONE ARMoured CORPS, A MOUNTED INFANTRY DIVISION, A COMPLETE FORMATION OF THE SPECIAL FORCES WHOSE TOTAL FORCEPOWER REACHED 60,000 MEN. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO A COMPLETE AIR FORCE FORMATION WHICH EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATED ON THE BATTLE FRONT IN EGYPT. THERE WERE ALSO BRIGADES WHICH WERE ON THEIR WAY TO JOIN THE BATTLE TO DEFEND ARAB SOIL AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS WHEN THE CEASEFIRE WAS ANNOUNCED. PARTICIPATION OF THE IRAQI ARMED FORCES IN THE OCTOBER WAR HAD CHANGED THE COURSE OF THE BATTLE AND MADE THE ENEMY THINK TWICE ABOUT ITS THRUST TO INVADE DAMASCUS. TROOPS COMING FROM IRAQ HAD IMMEDIATELY PLUNGED INTO SUCCESSIVE DELAYING BATTLES THAT FORCED THE ENEMY TO CHANGE ITS DIRECTION. IRAQI FORCES MANAGED TO OVERCOME THE TIME FACTOR AND INSTANTLY MOBILIZED A STRIKE FORCE TO DEAL A CRUSHING BLOW TO THE ENEMY. OPPORTUNITY WAS HOWEVER LOST WHEN CEASEFIRE WAS ANNOUNCED ONLY THREE HOURS BEFORE THE START OF THE OFFENSIVE, THUS ENDING ALL EFFORTS AND BRINGING ABOUT THE PRESENT SITUATION.

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PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00490 091302Z

MILITARY EXPLOITS OF THE IRAQI ARMED FORCES IN THE OCTOBER WAR AND THE OPERATIONS AGAINST THE HIRELING REBELLION PRODUCED MILITARY LESSONS WORTH OF STUDY.

4. "OUR LIBERATION BATTLES WILL CONTINUE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM UNTIL THE DISGRACE IS REMOVED AND THE ARAB LAND IS PURGED FROM ZIONISM."

LOWRIE

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